

# FUNERAL OF THE EMPEROR

George Stepney (1663–1707), British Envoy to Vienna (1702–1706)

to Robert Harley (1661–1724), British Secretary of State for the Northern Department (1704–1708)

Vienna, 6 May 1705

Some women who accompanied the garrison of Imperialists lately drawn out of Saint George report that when they were got into the White Mountains on their way to Scalitz, the Hungarian troops, instead of conveying them into Moravia according to their capitulation, surrounded them and, being joined by a great number of peasants, most barbarously massacred 500 of them, as well officers as private soldiers.

A courier is arrived from Transylvania with letters of 23 March, when the malcontents were in possession of all that province, except Hermannstadt, Cronstadt, and Fogaras. The same courier confirms a report we had that part of the garrison of Arath had beat away the troops who blocked up Great Warradin, and had introduced into the place some stores of provisions.

Last night a courier arrived from Landshut in Bavaria with packets of letters from Prince Rákóczi,<sup>1</sup> which Count Lowenstein, who has the administration of that country, had intercepted there.

I hear Field-Marshal Heister is ordered to take upon him again the command in Hungary, there being no other general at hand to relieve him. But it's believed Field-Marshal Stahremberg, who is now in Piedmont, will shortly be recalled from thence and be employed against the malcontents.

This morning the great officers, both of the late and present Emperor's courts, have been in council with the Prince of Salm<sup>2</sup> to regulate the mourning and all hands are at work in the chanceries, prepared letters of notification for the foreign princes and states.

This afternoon the body has been opened, and this evening is exposed in the ante-chamber on a bed of parade, there to continue for 3 days; and on the 9<sup>th</sup> it will be interred with very little ceremony in a vault prepared for the Austrian family in the Church of the Capuchins.

Magyar Tudományos Akadémia, *Archivum Rákócziánium: Rákóczi Ferencz Levéltára* (Pest: Eggenberger, 1873):75–76.

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<sup>1</sup> Francis II Rákóczi (1676–1735), leader of the Hungarian rebels

<sup>2</sup> Charles Theodore (1645–1710), Prince of Salm